

HOLDS THEM IN PAWN

China Keeps Ministers as Hostages Against Probable Action.

NEW STATEMENT FROM PEKIN

British Secretary of Chinese Embassy at London Startles Colleagues.

GIVES OUT ASSURANCES OF SAFETY

Says Delegations Are Alive in Peking and Will Be Sent to Tien Tsin.

LI HUNG CHANG'S UNANSWERED PROFFER

Agrees to Deliver the Minister Safe and Sound if Given Certain Authority to Pledge the Powers' Policy.

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LONDON, July 23.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—"The Pekin legations are safe and the ministers are about to proceed to Tien Tsin," is the statement made today by Sir Halliday Macartney, British attaché of the Chinese embassy here.

This is the first statement which Macartney has committed himself since the reported massacre, and it obtains general credence because it is believed he could not pledge himself to it unless he was absolutely assured of its truth.

I hear Li Hung Chang offered the powers to undertake a mission to Peking to secure the release and safe conduct of the foreigners, but urged to only promise success if empowered to assure the authorities at Peking that the allies entertained no design upon China beyond punitive measures against those responsible for the murder of the German ambassador.

The reply of the powers has not yet been sent, but Macartney's statement seems to promise the release of the foreigners independently of Li Hung Chang's mediation. In ministerial circles Macartney's declaration has caused the greatest interest, excitement and hope.

It appears the anticipation of the secretary of the Japanese embassy, given the World the day after the reported massacre, that the legations might be held as hostages and not murdered, is likely to be fulfilled.

Pritchard Morgan, M. P., said tonight: "If Li Hung Chang arrives safely in Peking, which I don't doubt, he will put an end to the doubt concerning the safety of the legations. At the most the Chinese authorities may detain them as hostages until it is made plain there is no attempt at partition of the country by the powers, of which the Chinese are intensely apprehensive."

LOOKED ON WITH SKEPTICISM

The latest assurances of the safety of the foreigners in Peking is regarded in official circles here with studied skepticism.

Even the statement issued by the Chinese ambassador tonight has failed to inspire the officials with confidence, since it came through Sheng, who is regarded as a "tainted" source. In fact, nothing short of a direct message from Sir Claude McDonald will lead them to believe that the foreigners have not been massacred weeks ago.

The Chinese ambassador, interviewed tonight, reiterated absolute confidence in the accuracy of Sheng's message to him. He said: "It was at my suggestion that the under secretary of the taung li yamen was sent to see McDonald, and saw him alive and well."

Asked why McDonald was not allowed to send message himself the ambassador said: "I do not know. You will hear from him in two or three days at the latest. I am assured of this after petitioning the Chinese government for three weeks on the subject. It is enough that the taung li yamen reports the legations safe. My emperor cannot lie to his 400,000,000 subjects and all the rest of the world. You will have the whole truth soon from McDonald. Then you will believe and not think so many hard things of the Chinese."

SHENG SAYS THEY ARE SAFE

Ministers Were Officially Visited in Peking on the 18th and All Were Well.

LONDON, July 24.—A. M.—The Chinese minister, Chih Sen Lo Feng Luh, has communicated to the press the following dispatch from Sheng, director general of Chinese railways and telegraphs and fiscal of Shanghai, dated Shanghai, July 23.

"Information from Peking, dated July 18, says that the taung li yamen deputed Won Ju, an under secretary of the department, to see the foreign ministers and he found every one well, without any missing, the German minister excepted.

"General Yung Lu is going to memorialize the throne to send them all under escort to Tien Tsin, in the hope that the military operations will then be stopped.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing on July 23, says: "A letter from a Chinese official in Shan Tung has been received by a native functioning here containing the following passage: 'At the beginning of the month the foreign missionaries made several attempts to send messages out of Peking, but thanks to the strict watch kept on the city the bearers were all caught and executed. On the 4th inst. only 400 foreigners, much exhausted, were left alive in Peking and one night, when the big guns were incessantly fired, it was known that all the legations and foreigners were finished, although pretended telegrams contradicted these facts.'"

(Continued on Second Page.)

FEELING OF HOPE GROWS

Officers Encouraged by Reterated Statement that Diplomats Are Alive.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Administration officials are more hopeful of the situation in China as a result of the dispatches which have come in the last few days, and more particularly the European envoys' report, asserting that the ministers are safe. In answer to the second telegram which has been sent through the Chinese minister here to Mr. Conger and that answer should bear internal evidence of genuineness, the situation will be materially improved and the government, with the additional information which Mr. Conger may transmit, will be able to move intelligently toward the rescue of the beleaguered foreigners. It seems probable from the Brussels dispatch that the note of Mr. Hay to the United States representatives abroad, directing them to urge upon the government to which they are accredited the opening of communication with Peking, is bearing fruit and the officials hope that united action by the powers generaly made public today has been received here. He expressed his satisfaction over the reiterated statements coming from abroad that the legations in Peking were still alive.

Mr. Wu, the Chinese minister, is busily engaged in preparing for transmission to his government the reply from the secretary of state to China requesting the United States to mediate in the present troubles between the Chinese empire and the powers. He declined to say tonight whether the reply will be satisfactory to him or not, but he is his government, nor would he indicate in any way what its nature was. There is considerable work to be done on the reply before it can be sent to China, as it has to be reduced to cipher. In addition to this the minister is preparing a communication to accompany what the president has to say. He expects, however, to have the document ready for transmission early tomorrow.

The minister expressed his satisfaction over the foreigners' news, and in showing that the ministers in Peking were safe and in connection to the dispatches from London recalled that, according to one of the imperial decrees, the Chinese government had decided, as a measure of precaution, to request them to retire temporarily to Tien Tsin. After the murder of Baron von Ketteler, however, this project was abandoned.

TEXT OF IMPERIAL EDICT

Chinese Government Expresses Willingness to Settle for All Damage Done.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The State department makes public the following text of an edict delivered today by Minister Wu to Secretary Hay. The edict is referred to by United States Consul Fowler at Chefoo. In his message received here yesterday.

"An imperial edict, issued on the 1st day of the sixth month (July 17). Transmitted by the viceroy Liu Kan Yin on the 20th of July and received by Minister Wu on the 21st day of July at 7 o'clock. The edict is directed to the Chinese and foreign powers and the long-standing antagonism between the people and Christian missions. The subsequent fall of the Taku forts precipitated the meeting of force with force. The imperial government, having the regard to the importance of international intercourse, still refused to go so far as to interrupt the existing relations. We have already issued decrees providing for the protection of the foreign legations and also command the provincial authorities to protect the missionaries, inasmuch as there is still no cessation in the employment of force, foreign merchants and subjects residing in China, who form a numerous body in the country, should be protected without distinction. We hereby command the provincial general, governors, general and governors of provinces to look after the foreign merchants and missionaries living in the open ports, prefectures, departments and districts under their respective jurisdiction and to afford them due protection in accordance with treaty stipulations without delay. Last month we heard with profound astonishment and regret of the killing of the chancellor of the Japanese legation, Mr. Akira, and the same fate befell the German minister shortly afterward. The violent removal of the German minister, whose removal was essential was necessary to the transaction of business between the two countries, affected us very deeply. It is the duty of the authorities concerned to cause stringent orders for the speedy arrest and punishment of the offenders to be carried out without delay. We hereby command the viceroy of Chi-Li to cause investigations to be made by their respective authorities of all such claims except those arising directly from the said attack, with a view to their ultimate settlement. Moreover local outlaws and rebellious subjects have of late been committing serious crimes of plundering, to the great disquiet of our loyal subjects. This is an utter defiance of law. We hereby command the said governors general, governors and commanders of our forces to investigate the situation and to take such measures for the punishment of the offenders and restoration of order as the necessities of the case demand. We hereby command this our general edict, to be made known for the information of all it may concern. Respect this."

The government is gratified to find that the correspondence published on the subject proves that Japan honestly intends to co-operate with the powers. On the other hand, considering the attitude of the powers, the government of the United States seems determined this early to occupy a separate standpoint with the concert of the powers. As at Taku, when the American admiral would not join, so President McKinley now apparently means to oppose the joint action of the powers aimed at the re-establishment of order in China, all of which proves that the Chinese are indeed the most cunning diplomats in the world."

While most of the papers point out the impossibility of an advance upon Peking because of the smallness of the allied forces as against a greatly superior force—because of the disastrous effect which a possible allied defeat would have upon the whole of China and also because of the rainy season—the National Zeitung contents that there is but one way to liberate the treaty ports, and that is the truth of the Chinese claim that the legations are safe, namely, an immediate advance on the capital.

The correspondent of the Associated Press learns authoritatively that the question of the chief command on land and sea still forms the question of diplomatic negotiation and the question has not been settled.

The semi-official Berliner Post says Germany must send a number of war ships to the Yangtze Kiang to protect the commercial German interests in Shanghai and Han Kow, adding:

"If these interests are jeopardized by the Chinese our naval guns must talk. Every attempt to block navigation there by mines must be prevented from the start. Free navigation upon the Yangtze Kiang is of the greatest importance."

REMEY GOING TO TIEN TSIN

Newark Sent to Nagasaki to Be Docked—Senior Officer Left in Command.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The Bureau of Navigation this morning received this telegram from Admiral Remy:

"TAKU, July 23.—Going Tien Tsin today to look into matters, leaving senior officer here. Newark gone Nagasaki for docking."

NO UPRISING IN SZECHUAN

To Northeast of that Place, However, Missions Have Been Destroyed.

PARIS, July 23.—According to a telegram received here today from the French consul at Tientsin, dated Wednesday, July 23, there has been no uprising at Szechuan in the country northeast of that place some missions have been destroyed.

LI HUNG CHANG'S MISSION

He Hopes to Pacify China and Restore Order and Government.

WANTS A WHITE MAN'S ARMY BEHIND HIM

Says the Boxers Are a Rabble, Easily Controlled, But the Chinese Will Vigorously Resist Attempts at Partition.

(Copyright, 1900, by Press Publishing Co.) SHANGHAI, Middle China, July 23.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Li Hung Chang, who arrived here Saturday on his way to Peking, received me today and talked over the situation. He said: "The members of the legations are still alive, but an advance of the allied troops upon Peking from Tien Tsin would probably be the death herald of every white man in Peking. The conservative element would be entirely overpowered by the radicals."

"The Chinese of the present situation were the lack of backbone and a wrong policy on the part of the Chinese government, while the drastic measures of the foreign powers aggravated the situation. We thank the Americans for their friendship which we have always appreciated, and I would like to see them and Mr. Kempt for his justice and forbearance in refusing to join in the bombardment of the Taku forts. We are trusting America to stand by the integrity of the Chinese empire."

"I say that if the powers do attempt to partition China, then the southern and central provinces, which are now peaceful, will no longer be neutral, but all the Chinese of all classes will fight the foreigners with every means in the power. "With a strong hand to fight for the policy of the integrity of the empire it can be maintained and efficient reforms can be made."

Despite his extreme age it is generally understood that Prince Li's ambition is to have a foreign policy at his disposal to pacify the rebellious districts and maintain order throughout the empire after the present insurrection is suppressed.

I asked him if he could restore order with 20,000 white troops. "With less," he answered. "The Boxers are a rabble, not to be considered. I would turn to my side the imperial troops, too, but the powers don't want them and would not permit it."

"I don't know when I shall go to Tien Tsin to take up my duties as viceroy of the metropolitan province of Chi-Li."

FREDERICK PALMER.

HAS NO HOPE FOR LEGATES

Berlin Official Circles Convinced that Ambassadors at Peking Are Now Dead.

BERLIN, July 23.—The Berlin government and press continue to disbelieve the assurances of the Chinese authorities that the Pekin legations are safe. The foreign office surmises that the Conger dispatch was either sent about simultaneously with the dispatches of Dr. von Serzen, secretary of the German legation, and Sir Robert Hart, but suppressed or was captured from the messenger to whom it was entrusted and is produced to create the desired effect in Washington, or on the other hand that the dispatch was conceived for purposes of deception with the aid of a cipher key.

Ambassador White said today the latter was quite plausible, for if the American legation had been captured and the records there seized the cipher key would likewise be secured and that then it would be an easy matter for anybody to do the rest. At all events the German foreign office will continue to regard the report that the legations will exist as myth until communication, not only with the powers, shall have been re-established in the most indubitable fashion.

No Peking or other important China news has arrived today and the question whether there is or is not a responsible government in Peking is as much a doubt as ever.

The German government considers unlikely that an advance to Peking will be feasible before September.

CHINESE SHREW DIPLOMATS

The government is gratified to find that the correspondence published on the subject proves that Japan honestly intends to co-operate with the powers. On the other hand, considering the attitude of the powers, the government of the United States seems determined this early to occupy a separate standpoint with the concert of the powers. As at Taku, when the American admiral would not join, so President McKinley now apparently means to oppose the joint action of the powers aimed at the re-establishment of order in China, all of which proves that the Chinese are indeed the most cunning diplomats in the world."

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"If these interests are jeopardized by the Chinese our naval guns must talk. Every attempt to block navigation there by mines must be prevented from the start. Free navigation upon the Yangtze Kiang is of the greatest importance."

SAW THE MINISTERS ALIVE

Story from Consul General Goodnow Does Not Agree with Message from Conger.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The State department made public the following:

The State department has received a dispatch from Mr. Goodnow, the consul general at Shanghai, dated today, saying that Prince Tuan writes that an officer of the taung li yamen saw all the ministers on the 18th, that none were injured and that no attack was at that time being made. He does not say to whom the dispatch of Prince Tuan was addressed and it is to a certain extent at variance with the dispatch of Mr. Conger of that date, describing the legation as being under fire at that time.

AIDS FOR GENERAL CHAFFEE

Brigadier General Grant, Barry and Wilson May Be Assigned to Service in China.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Although the orders have not been issued, it is pretty generally understood in military circles that Brigadier General Frederick B. Grant, U. S. A., and Brigadier General Thomas Barry will receive orders for assignment to duty in the military division in China. Their assignments, together with that of Brigadier General James H. Wilson, U. S. V., already announced, will give Major General A. R. Chaffee, the commander-in-chief, men of recognized ability to aid him in the military operations in China.

General Grant is now on duty with the troops in the Philippines, being stationed near Manila. General Barry is a passenger on the transport Sumner, which left San Francisco on the 17th inst. for Nagasaki. The orders under which he sailed required him to report to General MacArthur at Manila for duty as his chief of staff. It is now proposed, however, to change the orders so as to assign him, temporarily at least, to duty with troops in China. He undoubtedly will receive orders to that effect upon his arrival at Nagasaki and will continue with the troops on that vessel to Taku, China. General James H. Wilson, the senior brigade commander now at Matsuzaka, is expected to start on his long journey to Nagasaki immediately. He will take the trip by the way of San Francisco and will not arrive on Chinese soil until a month later than the other brigade commander.

GENERAL GOING DIRECT TO TAKU

The transport Grant is expected to arrive at Nagasaki early this week, possibly tomorrow or next day. She will, San Francisco on the 17th inst. for Nagasaki. The orders under which he sailed required him to report to General MacArthur at Manila for duty as his chief of staff. It is now proposed, however, to change the orders so as to assign him, temporarily at least, to duty with troops in China. He undoubtedly will receive orders to that effect upon his arrival at Nagasaki and will continue with the troops on that vessel to Taku, China.

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BRILLIANT MOVE BY BOERS

Dewet Makes Raid, Cutting Roberts' Line of Communication.

MANY HIGHLANDERS TAKEN PRISONER

Dispatch from Commander-in-Chief at Pretoria Confirms Story of Disaster to British Arms.

LONDON, July 23.—General Dewet has again succeeded in cutting Lord Roberts' communications, both by railway and telegraph, and has captured 100 of the Highlanders. The story of the federal commander's bold raid comes in the form of a telegram from General Forester-Walker, dated at Capetown, Sunday, July 22, forwarding a dispatch from General Knox at Bradwood as follows:

Have followed commands since July 16. Hard, sharp fighting at Palmietfontein, July 15. Prevented from pursuing laager by darkness. Eight hundred Boers found. Our casualties five killed and seventy-six wounded. Reached Vaalkranten today. Enemy doubled back through Paardekraal. Shall march tomorrow to Rooibank station. Will supply for 1,000 men and horses; also any news of the enemy's movements. I believe the command consists of 2,000 men and four guns and is accompanied by President Steyn and both the Dewets."

General Knox continued: "The wire and main line under the railway north of Honing supply have been cut and also the telegraph to Pretoria via Potchefstroom. According to my information Dewet has crossed the railway and is going north."

General Kelly-Kenny telegraphs from Bloemfontein dated Sunday, July 22: "The railway has been cut north of Honingspruit and a supply train and 100 Highlanders captured by the enemy. A report was received this morning that a large force of the enemy is moving on Honingspruit. All communication with Pretoria is cut off. The second and third cavalry brigades are following the enemy."

Roberts Confirms News. LONDON, July 23.—The War office has received a telegram from Lord Roberts dated Pretoria, Sunday, July 22, which repeats the news contained in the telegram from General Forester-Walker, given above and confirms the following:

"Methuen continued his march after the occupation of Heckpoort, and engaged the enemy's rear guard at Zindfontein on July 20. Casualties, one killed and one wounded. Early Saturday he attacked the enemy again at Oligant's Nek and completely dispersed them, inflicting heavy loss. Our casualties were slight. By these successes Rustenburg has been relieved and Methuen and Baden-Powell have joined hands.

"Hunter reports that Bruce Hamilton secured a strong position on the Spritzpruit yesterday, with a battery and the Cameron Highlanders and 500 mounted men. Our casualties were three of the Camerons killed and Captain Keith-Hamilton of the Oxfordshire, Captain Brown and Lieutenant Stewart and thirteen men of the Camerons wounded."

BOERS ARE NOT YET BEATEN. Last Three Days Have Seen Hard Fighting, in Which British Were Losers.

LONDON, July 24.—The Daily Express has the following from Machadodorp, dated July 23: "There has been severe fighting during the last three days and the Boers have inflicted heavy losses upon the British at Gordpoort."

"Six hundred women and children from Pretoria, including Mesdames Kruger, Betha and Meyer, have arrived at Bamberburg."

Excuse for British Failure. LONDON, July 24.—Letters reaching London from the British troops in Orange river colony assert that both men and horses are on short supplies and out of condition for hard work. If this be true there is little chance for the garrison to capture DeWet and at the apparent paralysis of the operations.

ARRIVED NONE TOO SOON. Horrible Scenes Faced Willcocks' Relief Expedition When It Reached Kumsasi.

LONDON, July 23.—Admiral Jellicoe just received here says that Colonel Willcocks, the commander of the relief column in Ashanti, describes his entrance into Kumsasi July 15 as presenting a scene of horror and desolation which he never forgot. The British troops who had come from Peking and fighting ensued in the course of which 800 of the enemy were killed and 400 of our men killed and 400 wounded. At Yong Song I was joined by the British who came down there in three trains. All the trains were completely destroyed and not a single one was left. The British work. Moreover, the want of provisions together with the presence of numerous sick and wounded men, made it impossible to Tien Tsin. Communication with Tien Tsin remained entirely suspended for six days and accordingly we were deprived of the means of obtaining supplies. We accordingly marched on to the river, where we were attacked by the enemy along the river, occurring at the same time the wounded soldiers carried in boats.